(b) whether the Government of Kerala formally requested to sanction the High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision and accorded sanction in the matter;

(d) whether Government are aware of the present stage of setting up of High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Gandhinagar and Thiruvananthapuram are the state capitals in the country, where,at present, there is no High Court or its bench. None of the capitals of Union Territories except Delhi has a High court or its bench located thereat.

(b) to (e) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for setting up a Bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram, in consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

FDI in Shipping Industry

593. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have allowed 100 per cent FDI through automatic route in the shipping sector during the last year; and

(b) if so, the details of the investment that the shipping industry received till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has so far approved Foreign Direct Investment to the tune of Rs. 468.40 crores in the shipping industry from 22 countries during the period August, 1991 to December, 2002.

Helpline for Older Persons

594. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme called'helpline for older persons' has been started in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Bhuj;

(b) whether the scheme has been extended to other cities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. One Helpline in Delhi had started during the year 1999-2000. Two Helplines in Ahmedabad had Bhuj had started during the year 2000-01.

(b) At present the scheme is not extended to other cities.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No further request has been received.

Proposal to revamp the adoption services

595. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to revamp the adoption services in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up Adoption Cell in every State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that regard particularly to promote and regulate adoption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. However, promotion of in-country adoption and streamlining of the adoption activity in the country is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) Circulars have already been issued to all the State Governments to expedite setting up of Adoption Cells in their respective States. State Governments have also been advised to streamline their adoption procedures by taking, *inter-alia*, the following steps:-